THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Tht: information ls being tollectcd and will be laid on the TaWe of the Sabha.

Loans for acquisition, replacement and modernisations of ships

2447. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD; Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state-

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA) hac, urged Government for the continuation of soft loan financing for acquisition, replacement and modernisation of ships; and

(b) if so, what are the detailg and what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL); (a) and (b) The Shipping Development Fund Committee providev, fnnds for acquisition, replacement and modernisation of ships at low interest ,ates and with longer oeriods of amortisation. The Indian National Shipowners" Association have ur,ged the Government for the continuation of these soft loan financing arrangements for shipping development in the Seventh Plan also.

Water scarcity at Tinsukhia station

2448. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute -scarcity oi' drinking water supply at Tinsukhia station and its railway colony; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to provide alternative source of water supply there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Ye?, Sir.

(b) A work of providing a Water Treatment Plant for improving the quality of water and an open well af 9 metre dia and 12 metre deep to augment water supply with suitable additional storage are already sanctioned and the work is in progress-

Talk with the GuU Airlines Authorities and Government of Dubai

2449. SHRl GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TRANS-i PORT be pleased to state: ‼

(a) whether it is a fact that a dele gation headed by the Secretary in the Department of civil Aviation had talks with the Gulf Airlines authorities and Government of Dubai;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Gulf Airlines and newly formed air lines of Government of Dubai ie, like ly to have more flights to India now than there prio$_r$ to the formation of j airlines by the Dubai Government; and

(c) whether Air India propose to operate any additional flight to Gulf countries after the talks?

THE MINISTER QF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation headed by Secretary, Department of Civil Aviation, visited Bahrain and Dubai for bilateral air talks from 12 to 15 October, 1985 with the Government of Gulf States.

(b) Yes, Sir. Combined frequency and capacity entitlements of Gulf Air (designated carrier- of U.A.E. except. Dubai, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain) and 'Emirates' (designated carrier of the Emirate of Dubai) are marginally higher than the entitlements which wer$_e$ available to Gulf Air along in term$_s$ of the old arrangements determined some years back.

<o) No, Sir.